

# By the King.

## A Proclamation to restraine the excessiue carriages in Wagons and foure wheeled Carts, to the destruction of the High-ways.



**W**E haue many times heretofore expressed the great care and desire We alwayes had, that the Common High-Wayes and Bridges within this Realme, might be kept in due repayre, for the generall ease and good of Our louing Subiects, and haue giuen many and often directions to Our Prīue Counsell, Judges, and other Officers, for effecting thereof; And finding a chiefe cause of the exceeding decayes thereof, to be the extraordinary carriages with Carts, and Wagons with foure wheeles, carrying excessiue burthens, whereby the High-Wayes are so galled, and the very foundations of any ordinary Bridges shaken, that no ordinary repayre can maintain and keepe the same passable: we did heretofore cause Our Judges to aduise thereof, by Whom we were resolved, that those extraordinary carriages were common Nusances and annoyances against the weale Publique, and the vse of them an offence against Our Crowne and Lawes: we did therefore by Our Proclamation, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, prohibite the going or traouailing with any such Cart or Wagon. Notwithstanding all which, and the great care, aswell of Our Prīue Counsell, as of Our Judges in their Circuits, we finde no amendement, but that the High-Wayes, not onely in the remoter parts, but also in places of Our owne vsuall access, are still spoyled and ploughed by by those vnrasonable carriages, so as they continue still so foule and deepe, as they are oft times almost vnpassable. we therefore intending redresse and reformation in the Premises, and being resolved, that for the effecting thereof, a more seuerer and strict course be taken then hath bene heretofore, haue thought it agreeable to Our owne princely goodnesse, once more to warne Our Subiects thereof, that such as shall hereafter offend, and shall be iustly punished therefore, may be altogether vnercusable.

And therefore, we doe by this Our Proclamation, and by the aduise of the Lords and others of Our Prīue Counsel, straitly charge, require and command: That no common Carryer, or other person, or persons whatsoever, shal from, and after the Feast of S. Michael the Arch-angel, now next comming, vse, goe, or trauell with any Cart, or Wagon, made with foure wheeles, nor with any other Cart or Wagon whatsoever, but onely such Wagons and Carts, as shall haue but two wheeles; and that they doe not cary in any wayne, Cart, or carriage, to be after that time vsed, any load or burthen, aboue the weight of twentie hundred, nor shall draw, or vse their said Carts, or Waynes, or carriages, with more then five horses at once in their iourney, vpon paine of our heauy indignation, and displeasure, and of the seuerest censure of Our high Court of Star-Chamber, and such further paines, punishments, and imprisonments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme may be inflicted vpon the offenders, for such their offence and contempt.

And therefore we doe hereby require Our Atturney generall, for the time being, vpon notice giuen vnto him of any such offender, or offenders, to prosecute him, and them in the said high Court of Star-chamber, there to receiue such censure and punishment, by fine, imprisonment, and otherwise, as their contempts and offences against this Our Royall Command shall deserue. And lastly, we doe hereby will and require, all Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Justices of Peace, and other Our Officers, and Ministers, in all Countiees, and prīuiledged places whatsoever, within this Our Realme, That they, and euery of them, in their seuerall Offices, and places, doe from time to time prouide, and see to the due execution of this Our pleasure, and Royall Commandement; And that they discover and make knowne all offenders herein, that they may be seuerely punished for their offences and contempts; As also, that they neglect not, but continue the repaire and maintenance of High-Wayes, Bridges, and Causeys within this Our Realme, according to the Lawes, Statutes, and Ordinances now in force, and Our Commandement heretofore giuen, as they tender Our pleasure, and will answere the contrary, at their vttermost perills.

Giuen at Our Court at Windsor, the sixt day of August; In the yeeres of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, the twentieth, and of Scotland the fixe and fiftieth.

*God saue the King.*

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